

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-60. Claims 23-30 and 53-60 are allowed. Claims 11 and 41 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 12-14, 16-18, 21, 22, 31, 34, 36, 38, 42-44, 46-48, 51 and 52 are hereby amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 19, 20, 31, 32, 35, 40, 45, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Pierson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,633,566). While disagreeing with the grounds of rejection, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 31 in order to expedite issuance of a patent on the subject matter that the Examiner has found to be allowable. Specifically, claims 1 and 31 now include the added limitations of dependent claims 11 and 41 (now canceled), which were found by the Examiner to recite allowable subject matter. Therefore, claims 1 and 31 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, as are dependent claims 2, 5, 10, 15, 19, 20, 32, 35, 40, 45, 49 and 50.

Claims 3 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Pierson in view of Boyle et al. (U.S. Patent 6,831,932). In view of the patentability of amended independent claims 1 and 31, as explained above, dependent claims 3 and 33 are also believed to be patentable.

Claims 4, 6-9, 11-14, 16-18, 21, 22, 34, 36-39, 41-44, 46-48, 51 and 52 were objected to for depending from rejected base claims, but were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. Claims 11 and 41 have been canceled, as noted above, and claims 12-14 and 42-44 have been amended accordingly for proper dependence from claims 1 and 31, respectively. Claims 4, 6, 8, 16-18, 21, 22, 34, 36-38, 51 and 52 have been amended to stand as independent claims, incorporating all the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims from which they formerly

depended. The remaining claims in this group all depend from one of these newly-independent claims. Therefore, all of claims 4, 6-9, 12-14, 16-18, 21, 22, 34, 36-39, 42-44, 46-48, 51 and 52 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH Cohen', written over a horizontal line.

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